

THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED ON THE 5th, 15th AND 24th OF EVERY MONTH.

VOL. VI.

RIO DE JANEIRO, APRIL 24TH 1879

NUMBER 9

THE INTERPELLATION.

The interpellation of the government in regard to its intentions in view of the late decision of the *Tribunal da Relação* in the Banco Nacional case, came up for discussion on the 14th inst. After replying to some of the censures which had been pronounced upon his position as interpellant in this question, Counselor Silveira Martins said:

The *Tribunal da Relação* pronounced judgment on the directory of the Banco Nacional of which the noble President of the Council was president, and His Excellency—to whom I do not attribute the slightest blame—finds himself under the sentence of a tribunal from which there is no recourse; just or unjust, it is a decision which in law involves the suspension of political rights. For the members of the legislature the law provides that before taking effect the sentence shall be submitted to the respective Chamber.

The judgment is not individual; but collective—that of a directory—and this fact will produce the curious anomaly of leaving the president of the directory in the presidency of the Council of Ministers, and the other directors in the house of correction.

In the case of the noble President of the Council I should ask my dismissal.

I know so well the President of the Council and the delicacy of the sentiments that distinguish him that I am convinced that this was his first impulse, that this was what he did. But in an unhappy moment he consented to continue. Having committed this political error he should have provoked a manifestation of the Chamber to strengthen himself with the force of public opinion, await the action of the Senate, and, last of all, bring forward the solemn manifestation of confidence on the part of the Crown.

In this case what do we see? It is the Crown entering into combat with the judicial power, declaring the judgment venacious and null.

If these magistrates are capable of acts such that their decisions can not produce effect, how can they continue to decide on the honor, the life, the liberty, and the property of other citizens. There cannot be two justices: one for the great, the other for the small. The President of the Council expects the Senate to do him justice, that the process will be discontinued; but can he hope that the conduct of the judges will be justly appreciated and judged, or that the Senate will be complacent with them and give him an absolution that will seem more like a pardon and will be a humiliation to him and to the liberal party of which he is the chief?

What we see is that the Ministry lives because the Crown confides in it. I beg the noble President of the Council to return to the good parliamentary practices and that some of his friends should promote a manifestation of the Chamber in his favor. I wish to restore the representative asseges of the government, coming before the parliament to justify its acts, and seek in the national sovereignty the force with which it has to govern.

The President of the Council, Counselor Sinimbu, responded to the interpellation as follows:

Gentlemen, if I had judged myself deprived of my moral dignity in virtue of this decision of a tribunal to which I render the respect due to it as a tribunal of the country, I should have been the first to condemn myself and should have asked immediately my exoneration, but, gentlemen, there is a great advantage in having passed one's whole life following always the principles of honor and complying with duty, and this is a stock of moral force with which the men who do not know how to make terms with the dictates of conscience, feel themselves armed.

I therefore respond to the noble deputy that I do not judge myself exonerated by the decision from discharging the duties that are imposed upon me, duties for which I was indicated by my party, and honored by the confidence of the Crown, duties for the discharge of which I believe that I can count upon the decided support of the Chamber of

Deputies; while I have the conviction that I can dispose of these three elements, I declare solemnly that I will not desert my post whatever may be the consequences of this decision of the tribunal.

And I declare that I shall provoke in the Chamber of which I am a member, the final judgment; I shall not recoil before it. I desire to put it on record that there was in this country a man who, after long years of service, having discharged various public trusts, being for the third time minister of state, was the first senator of the empire whose name was entered on the list of those accused of common crime. I desire that this be recorded for the glory of the fallen situation and of those that judged me. Far from considering myself humiliated, I take pleasure in assisting to render the act solemn and permanently graven in the memory of all.

I confess that the first impulse of my dignity, offended by this judgment, was to ask my exoneration; but reflection came afterwards and I saw that it would be the commission of a great error to set the fatal example of submitting political power to the aggressions and injuries of another power; not of a power but by only two of its agents. Who can judge himself secure in this country in the discharge of the difficult trust that is confided to me, if he is dependent on the judgment of two adversaries? The Senate may condemn me. I await proudly this event; and when the law impedes me from continuing in this position, it is clear that I should leave it.

If I had come to the Câmara to ask a vote of confidence I should have commenced by condemning myself. If I had judged that in any way I had fallen in the opinion of good men, I certainly should not have come here to shield myself with the banner of my party, nor with the high attributes of the Chamber of Deputies. It is possible that, recognizing this Chamber as the true representative of the nation, in a political matter I should by chance have a contrary vote in the other house, I might come to strengthen myself in the bosom of the national representation, but this only in political questions and not in those that in any manner involve my individuality.

The noble deputy wonders that I sought a proof of confidence from the Crown before asking it from the Chamber. The decision of the tribunal was rendered April 1st, while I was here discussing the estimates of my portfolio; on the following day they were approved in this house. It is clear that if the decision had caused any loss of confidence in me on the part of the representatives of the nation they would have manifested it. I had knowledge of the decree of the 16th of November but I did not in any way provoke the decree which treated only of a *relação* raised a doubt, not on the legality of the decree, but on its applicability to this case, which retarded the decision. I assure the Chamber that my constant solicitations to my colleagues of justice were in whatever form and whatever might be its results, the judgment should be rendered.

If the Ministry did not seek the support of the Chamber of Deputies it was because it did not consider it necessary, because it felt itself with full moral force to continue to direct public affairs.

Mr. Ruy Barbosa made a long and brilliant speech which space does not permit us to publish, and which treated more of the interpellant than of the interpellation.

Mr. José Bonifácio then arose and said:—The discourse of the illustrious deputy from Bahia (Ruy Barbosa), despite his great talents, has its own punishment in the applause with which it was received. The words are not my own, but of Montaigne, that I take the liberty of applying to him since he leaves the interpellations made to the minister of state, to occupy himself with the ex-minister. If I had to direct the discussion, notwithstanding the great friendship I have for him on account of his liberalism, I should propose the following vote: The Chamber of Deputies, having heard Mr. Gaspar de Silveira Martins, being of the

opinion that he impedes the dispatch of business, pass to the order of the day.

I do not mean to excite passions. Let not the Chamber, the country, believe that in any way I fail to recognize the capabilities, the qualities, the virtues of the noble President of the Council. My point of view is another. I consider the ideas, power, authority of the Chamber of Deputies. Nothing more. I will say a few words that I had not intended to say in defense of the illustrious ex-Minister of Finance, as I shall say them in defense of the President of the Council.

The liberal who, in the days of adversity was always one of the first to defend his party and his friends, the orator who, on no occasion, forgot a single one of his parliamentary duties, the favorite son of Rio Grande do Sul, the honor of his country, his flowers in his indestructible crown of laurels that cannot even fade before his enemies, when by chance he commits any. It is ungenerous to substitute for the ministers one who no longer occupies the position of minister; it is ungenerous in a combat, whatever may be the motives, to make of one a shield for another; it is ungenerous because even those defended are lowered in their position.

The procedure of the deputy from Rio Grande, ex-Minister of Finance, is not censurable before the constitution of his country, before public morals, nor before political conveniences. It is not censurable before the constitution because, in that case, it would be necessary to declare the position of minister incompatible with that of deputy; it is not censurable before public morals because the first duty of a public man is to place his party above his individuality and his country above his party; it is not censurable in the eyes of political conveniences because there can be no political conveniences in opposition to the general interest.

Are we discussing this bankruptcy? Have we the documents to examine? Do we doubt the noble President of the Council so that the noble deputy should almost give a certificate of good conduct? The deputy from Bahia finished by saying: "You may be tranquil, you will come out of the Chamber triumphant." No, gentlemen, these triumphs are not gained with certificates; these triumphs the noble President of the Council has in the tranquility of his conscience, in his noble procedure during his whole life. If in this question I had to give a vote to Counselor João Luis Vieira Cansanção de Sinimbu I should only have one regret, that of not being able to multiply it many times to give them all to him. If in this question I had to judge the magistracy, I would again multiply my votes to condemn the judgment. Not because I know what occurred in the process, not because I can weigh the evidence, but because, for me, it is a political judgment; it is a judgment that does not inspire my confidence. It is a political judgment because the circumstances show that it was not justice that nominated the judges. It is a political judgment because the jurisprudence of yesterday condemned the jurisprudence of today, and it was necessary to seek for motives between the condemnation and the affirmation. It is a political judgment because it established a conflict between the government that dispatched the decree and the judge who did not comply with it; the disobedient can not judge the disobeyed, the interested cannot be an impartial judge. It is a political judgment because, if there were none of these reasons, we have another, that the question became a heated one because, since the government insisted upon a compliance with the law and the magistrate refused to comply with it, there could not be that tranquillity, that coolness, that impartiality that is required in the judges and consequently their judgment is justly subject to suspicion.

This political judgment should not, therefore, in any way weaken the government; but it did weaken it and in what way? It weakened it the moment that the government folded its arms and left justice to judge it, recognizing thus the legality of its acts. We must see both sides of the medal. If the political judge cannot judge, if the judge in the conflict loses his tranquillity, if the judge loses the impartiality he should have, what should be the position of the government? If it makes a decree and does not see it complied with, if it establishes one doctrine and sustains another, if it folds its arms before the judicial power, whatever may be the reasons, because it cannot cause to be executed what it judges to be the execution of the law, because it has not the means to enforce it, although it recognizes the principle as bad, it turns over to a perpetual power the first of all prerogatives, the prerogative of constituting ministries, of putting itself in the place of the Chamber of Deputies and, finally, of attacking the most important prerogative of political power, annihilating the supreme constitutional guarantees, the independence and division of powers.

But also if it attempts to maintain its act, what is the guarantee it can give the country of impartiality? What is the security it can offer in identical circumstances? What is the solemnity it can observe in face of a possible conflict? What is the position, I will not say of this or that minister, in the possible conflict between the Senate and the judges? Or what is the position of the government, I do not speak of the noble President of the Council in face of the possible discussion touching this very question? Does not, then, moral authority live by opinion? Does not, then, all these facts in some way influence opinion? Will not those who accuse the judge of being partial and suspected accuse also the minister of being suspected when marching in the contrary sense to judge these same judges? Does not, then, the opposition in the parliament before a fact of this order, involve a moral weakening of authority, I do not speak of the man but I speak of the authority, because the government lives from the splendor that surrounds it, splendor that may not effect the conscience of the man but may reach the authoritative influence of the said government?

What remained, then, to the Ministry?

What remained to the noble President of the Council who, in this moment, I consider as the incarnation of the government? There remained but one road, to not allow that third principle of the perpetual power, intervening in the conflict, to put in, raising the banner he had carried unconquered, to deliver it to his friends, to his majority, saying to them: do your duty, make the true principles of constitutional government triumph; I have sufficient courage to defend them, I have sufficient certainty of my disinterestedness, but fate has for the moment dashed a part of my forces. This is the course I would have advised to the noble President of the Council. It would not be a subaltern position. Far be it from me to suppose that His Excellency hesitated an instant from love of power.

I believe there is an altar in Brazil, and this is not personal to the noble President of the Council or to any of the ministers; it dominates the situation, comes from above; it appears to counsel all the powers to follow their life by the force of their own action. In this country the animosity of ideas seems to be spreading; up to a certain point it seems that both diminishes in proportion as force increases. But who believes that one can live without faith; who does not recall certain words read in so many of those men who described epochs similar to ours, to recognize that to have a family there must be conjugal faith; to have society there must be juridical faith, where labor shall not be slavery and have in exchange misery, where virtue shall be rewarded in recognized and justice distribute all the powers, even the magistracy itself?

To have political faith we must, above all, believe that we are not an association of repulsive elements, and that we live still in this faith which is the guarantee and security of the state itself.

Look at our society: faith coils because authority—I do not speak of yours, I speak of all—because authority has no force rather than ideas. It is for this that I wish the noble ministers to be the first, after giving all examples of civism, to give still the same, convinced that in this brilliant majority that

supports them, full of talent, virtue and instruction there are many who can honor the precedents they have established and save the banner of their party.

The President of the Council, in response to the last speaker, said that the constitution had granted guarantees to the ministers in order to protect them from party passions and petty vengeance, and that consequently the weakening was not in the direct effects of the process but in the moral effect it might produce, that in this respect he considered himself as secure as before. He could not respond as to what would be the course of the government in all the hypotheses that might be presented, but it appeared that the institutions of the country were passing through a severe ordeal and on this account he wished to arrive at the last consequences. That whatever might occur he should know how to do his duty and would restore to the liberal party its banner whenever he thought himself impotent to sustain it.

The debate was closed by Mr. Prado Pimentel and Mr. Martin Francisco who responded to some of the observations of the interpellant.

MEMPHIS AND THE YELLOW FEVER

The yellow fever, or some other pestilence or plague, will as surely visit this city during the coming summer as the lapse of time brings the season and temperature suitable for the development of the germs of fatal sickness. Memphis is unquestionably the nastiest, dirtiest and filthiest city in the United States, if not in the world; it ought to be indicated as a national nuisance. There is no pure water for drinking or culinary purposes to be had within the limits of the corporation. There are some wells and pumps in the suburbs, but they are generally so poorly constructed that the seep water from bays and cesspools runs into them and poisons every drop they contain. Wolf river, from whence the city water-works draw their supply, is, in the estimation of many, simply a large sewer for the surrounding country, and is just reeking with seep poison and filth. In the central part of the city there are a great many cisterns, the covers of which are generally in a dilapidated condition, and the inside work is almost invariably broken and cracked, and the seep poison runs into them.

When the people returned to this city last year, after the Board of Health had issued their proclamation of safety, they commenced to use the water of these cisterns without having them cleaned or repaired who had been emptied or thrown into them during the prevalence of the fever. The result of all this carelessness and stupidity has been a season of unparalleled sickness, the end of which is not yet. The green and tinting bodies of hundreds of last year's yellow fever victims have been exhumed, removed and reinterred at other places. If there exists no other cause for the reappearance of yellow fever this year, this lagging up of the bodies in the trenches, ponds, ditches and other places, will be amply sufficient.

There are no sewers in Memphis worth the name, and the nauseating fluid from animals and human excrement which is allowed to seep through the ground to cisterns, cellars, wells and the river. The streets are filthy, and back yards or the city are in a most deplorable state of unsanitaryness; no arrangement or contract for removing garbage appears to have been in existence here for more than a year, and the consequence is that at the doors and in the rear of many dwellings and business houses there are heaps of ashes, piles of manure and other filth and offal. How any community can be at ease under such a frightful state of affairs is to the writer, a most inexplicable mystery.

The inevitable advent of an other terrible affliction upon the people of Memphis this year is foreseen by many citizens here, a large number of whom have already removed their families to places of safety. Working men are struggling and denying themselves and families many comforts and luxuries in order to accumulate a few dollars to enable them to remove to a healthier place.—*Memphis letter, February 27, to Louisville Post.*

THE RIO NEWS,

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY

on the eve of departure of the American packet, the French packet of the 15th, and the Royal Mail packet of the 24th of the month.

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PUBLICATION OFFICE—St. Rua Sete de Setembro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 24th, 1879.

THE RIO NEWS will be furnished to the subscribers of "The British and American Mail," which it succeeds, under the terms of its subscription, shall have expired.

THE DISCUSSION on the interpellation of the 14th instant, regarding the course of the government in relation to the decision of the *Relação* in the Banco Nacional case, brought out and uncovered some questions of more than ordinary moment—questions which, above and beyond all personal and party interests, affect the growth and permanency of liberal institutions in this country. Divested to all its pros and cons, the case is simply this: one of the highest tribunals in the empire, acting in the capacity of a grand jury, has declared that the failure of a certain banking institution was fraudulent and that its three directors, of which the President of the present Cabinet was one, are indictable before the law. The three directors of the Banco Nacional stand before country to day under a grave indictment for a felony. It is unfortunate, deeply unfortunate that one of these directors should be a man of high integrity, of unblemished character, of exalted position; yet, notwithstanding this circumstance and the keen regrets of his friends, this indictment must have full legal effect before the courts or Brazil will have what Silveira Martins eloquently denounced—one justice for the great, another for the small. It is to be regretted that the discussion in the Chamber was diverted so far from its real basis and used as a means of personal eulogy, for it thus served to intensify prejudices and to blind the deputies as to the real issues at stake. The personal worth of Counselor Simbido—and his bitterest political opponent will bear ready witness to that—is not at issue, the prejudices of the judges are not at issue; the continuation of a ministry or a party in power is not at issue—it is simply whether an indictment for a felony incapacitates a man from holding the highest political position which a citizen can hold. Character, honor, integrity, usefulness, all these will have their due influence before the courts; they can not justly be used to avert a trial. It is evident that all these high qualities did not deter the eminent senator from placing his good name at the head of an institution where it was wrongfully used to cover fraudulent practices; they cannot now be justly used to shield the minister from the consequences of his former error in judgment. The position taken by the government in this matter is very far from being a strong one. Aside from the ethics of the question as to whether an executive officer should still continue to administer the laws for the breaking of which he stands indicted before the courts, a grave mistake has been made in impugning the motives of the judges and inciting a conflict between the executive and judicial branches of the government. If the motives of the judges can be impugned, they should be deposed from their places without delay; if not, then a dangerous error was committed in attempting to destroy public confidence in their integrity and impartiality. An honest, incorruptible judiciary is the greatest safeguard of a free people; and a wise administration, to which the people look for example as well as for protection, will be the first to obey its decisions.

THE NECESSITY of a reform in the civil service is gradually forcing itself to the front in Brazilian politics. It can not yet be accorded the importance of an issue; it may not reach that point for many years to come. And yet, to the few who have considered the question upon its merits and in relation to its influence upon the social and political

development of this country, it has attained an importance second to no other reform now urged upon the national legislators. In a recent discussion in the Chamber of Deputies, Counselor Afonso Celso, Minister of Finance, referred to one of the evil results of the present system in the following words: "Office-seeking is one of the great vices of the country, a canker in the public revenues. I have always combated it with all my energy, not so much on account of the drain on the public treasury, but principally on account of its evil influence on the national character. The Chamber cannot imagine the solicitations for positions to which a poor minister of state in subject. I give audiences twice a week, in each of which I speak with forty, sixty, or eighty persons who, with rare exceptions, come to ask positions, or advancement in those they already hold. In this manner, our compatriots prefer to elbow each other in the ante-rooms of ministers or deputies who possess influence, soliciting and begging, when in this country where everything, so to speak, is to be created and explored, their activity can find vast fields for productive operation in manufacture, commerce and agriculture. This weakens the fibre, debases the national character." These are plain and timely words. Where there are no checks nor regulations governing the appointments to public positions, it is very difficult for any minister, in whose gift these offices are placed, to base them upon any other than personal grounds and through any other than personal solicitation. Out of such a system abuses are sure to spring, the public service will become corrupted, and the standard of private character will be correspondingly lowered. As the Minister of Finance justly observes, the civil is to be combated not so much on account of its drain upon the public treasury—and that in itself is no slight burden at this time—but mainly because of its influence on the national character.

THE MENSONITE exodus from the province of Paraná recently assumed a new and unexpected phase, and out of the discussion which it has excited we shall probably get some good, wholesome truths, not only in relation to the settlement and treatment of these immigrants, but also in regard to the general system of colonization now in vogue. On the 18th instant the German steamer, *Paranáguá*, entered this port from Paraná with 406 Russian immigrants en route to Hamburg. They had voluntarily given up their lands in Paraná, and had paid their own passage money on the steamer, amounting to \$18,840. On their arrival here they were met by a dispatch from Hamburg saying that they would not be allowed to land there, and a similar decision of the Brazilian government informed them that they could not land here unless they agreed to return to Paraná. To live in peace and in the enjoyment of their religion, these people left Russia and came to Brazil. According to the parental system of colonization which Brazil has adopted, lands were purchased for them in Paraná and thither they were sent by the government. The lands, however, proved worthless, the government support was eventually withdrawn, and the poor people soon found themselves unable to gain a livelihood. With characteristic decision they decided to give up everything and go elsewhere. Between the 22nd of March, 1878, and the 28th of February, 1879, 703 of them returned to Europe, nearly all of which paid their own passage money. Besides the 406 mentioned above, there are now nearly 600 persons in Paraná and Antonina ready to leave at the first opportunity, and others are arriving from the interior daily. In the United States and in Canada this people has won a reputation for thrift and good order which is second to no other class of colonists. They are peaceable in their habits, carefully observant of their religious rites and of their obligations to others, and tenacious in their opinions and in their purpose to acquire property among themselves so that they may be independent of others. And this people, these 406 inoffensive men, women and children were branded as dangerous, and were denied the privilege of landing on Brazilian territory except it were to return to their worthless sand barrens in Paraná. That alternative, however, is no longer before them: yesterday they proceeded on their voyage to Europe.

—The receipts of the Espírito Santo custom house for the month of March, were \$763,875. The value of exports was \$2,565,000.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

—The Senate has been principally occupied during the last week, with the estimates, the proposed reduction of the army from 15,000 to 13,000 men being combated by Senators Couteiro, Corrêa, Junqueira and Teixeira Junior and was defended by the Minister of War and Senators Sariva and Paranáguá. Information was asked from the Minister of Agriculture respecting the Russian colonists in Paraná, the projected railroads to Mato Grosso, and the supply of water for the deposits of the City Improvements company and the amount of fines that had been imposed on the company.

—An unusual amount of interest in legislative proceedings was awakened by the interpellation of Silveira Martins, addressed to the President of the Council, Counselor Simbido, on Wednesday last in the Chamber of Deputies. Aside from the general interest in the subject under discussion, the position of the government on the question of the Banco Nacional, many were attracted by the opportunity of hearing the famous orator who were expected to take part in the debate; an expectation which was not disappointed for the day in which one can listen to orators of the force of Silveira Martins, José B. Mafuco, Simbido, Martin Francisco, Ruy Barbosa and Prádo Pimentel, not to speak of the spirited and witty remarks with which the celebrated *apostate*, Galdino, enlivens the debate, is certainly one to be marked with a red letter. A full house was present, a somewhat unusual thing in the legislative sessions, and every inch of standing room, including a part of the floor of the house, was occupied by an anxious and attentive crowd representing every class of Rio society. The somewhat limited space reserved for ladies was found to be insufficient and room for them was gracefully conceded in the diplomatic tribune by the representatives of the United States and of Italy who were occupying it. In a question in which sentiments of personal friendship, party fealty and patriotism were so deeply involved, it is not surprising that the splendid periods of Silveira Martins, Simbido and of that prince of Brazilian orators, José Bonifácio, necessitated frequent calls to order from the chair; but in general the order was excellent and the speakers were listened to in wrapt attention. We give in another column the principal parts of the discussion but we must warn our readers that much of the eloquence escapes in the translation.

—On the second reading of the estimates for revenue, various amendments were offered for discussion modifying the proposed income tax and various other imposts. Mr. Joaquim Nabuco advocated with earnestness, a territorial tax, the sequestration of the property of religious orders and a tax on the income from government securities, but these measures did not seem to be viewed with favor either by the Minister of Finance or the majority of the Chamber. In this discussion, the Minister of Finance, Afonso Celso, delivered an important discourse in the session of April 13th. He stated that the deficits for the two fiscal years 1878-9, 1879-80 would be in round numbers 50,000,000 to be met with economies, loans or imposts. None of these means would be employed exclusively. In the present circumstances a loan could only be effected at an enormous sacrifice. No further economies can be made except after mature study for which it is proposed to appoint a committee. The emission of treasury notes is preferable to paper money. He defended the proposed imposts, more especially those that had been most combated, viz., the stamp on the qualification of voters and electors, the tobacco tax, and the tax on salaries. In regard to the first he was willing to accept an equivalent capitation tax or a tax on salt and sugar. In the tax on salaries that of the Imperial family must be excluded not only because it was guaranteed by the constitution but also because the Emperor had already voluntarily ceded to 10% of it which was already being discounted. He opposed as inexpedient or unjust the means that had been proposed for the sale of the Dom Pedro II railroad, the sequestration of the property of religious orders and the tax on the income from government securities. The bill passed to the 3d reading on the 21st inst., with most of the amendments proposed by the finance committee. The proposed stamp tax on the qualification papers of voters and electors was rejected as well as the increase in the municipal taxes of the city of Rio. An amendment exempting farmers from the income tax was adopted.

—The Amazonas navigation subsidy bill came up for its third reading and an amendment proposed by Mr. Saldanha Marinho and others, providing for the removal of the seat of the company to Brazil in case of the passage of the bill, was accepted for discussion. On motion of Mr. José Bonifácio, the bill was laid on the table until after the passage of the revenue bill and that relating to the emission of paper money. In respect to this subsidy, the Minister of Finance said that he was still of his former opinion that it was unnecessary, but as a member of the government he could not oppose a contract made by the government. The Chamber must do as it saw fit in regard to it.

—In response to a question by Mr. Martin Francisco, the Minister of Empire declared in the Chamber of Deputies that, by the existing law, the school of medicine is open to women; but that to remove all doubts on the subject he will shortly present a bill declaring formally that the medical courses are thus open. In his report he had already advocated mixed schools and the superiority of women for primary instruction. The São Paulo deputy frankly declared himself in favor of the admission of women to all political rights and functions.

—The bill relative to the reform of the constitution entered in discussion, April 22d. After a heated debate it was resolved that the bill should be discussed in the Chamber without being previously referred to the committee on the constitution. The discussion was opened by the deputy from Rio de Janeiro, Pedro Luiz.

—The committee on the estimates reported favorably the bill authorizing the Minister of Marine to open a credit of 400,000 for the construction of lighthouses and the mounting of the apparatus already in the possession of the government. The stations referred to in this bill are Baganza, São Thomé, Estreito, Avoredo, and Capão da Marca.

—The Minister of War presented a bill authorizing a supplementary credit of 654,450\$313 for certain expenses of his department and stated that this amount could be taken from the surplus of the appropriation for another branch of the department.

—The joint stock companies bill passed the second reading in the Chamber with amendments and substitutes to some of the articles.

—The discussion on the third reading of the bill approving the emission of paper money was continued throughout the week.

—By an Imperial decree, dated April 5th, the present legislative session was prorogued until May 2d.

ROACH'S STEAMSHIP LINE.

Messrs. Editors:—I observe that the eloquent deputy, Joaquim Nabuco, in one of his speeches recently delivered in the Chamber, a translation of which appeared in the last issue of THE RIO NEWS, asserts, as a fact, that the service now performed by the Roach line of steamers was formerly performed by an English line of steamers without receiving any compensation whatever from the Brazilian government.

As this statement is not exact and compensation was received by the English line of steamers for that service, the friends of Dr. Nabuco confidently expect him to make the proper correction from his place in parliament when the subject again comes on for discussion.

JUSTICE.

Rio de Janeiro, 20th April, 1879.

—All maritime communication with the port of Rio Grande do Sul is seriously impeded by the bar at the entrance to the harbor. Excepting at high water, the bar is not only large enough to prevent the passage of all vessels except those of light draft, but the course of the channel is so tortuous and so influenced by the shifting sand, that entrance at all times has become very difficult.

RAILROAD NOTES.

The Bahia and S. Francisco railroad in the month of February, earned 38,536\$510 and expended 37,444\$990, leaving a net balance of 1,091\$520 in favor of the company.

—The total receipts of the Niterói and Campos railroad for the first quarter of 1879, was 62,364\$600 and the net receipts 20,178\$400, an excess of 11,681\$400 over the net receipts of the corresponding quarter of last year. The movement of freight was 3,638,647 kilograms.

—In reply to a suggestion by Mr. Gavio Peixoto that the Dom Pedro II railroad should be leased to a private company for a term of years, the Minister of Finance stated that he had considered the subject but that the operation would be difficult to realize immediately.

—The Central road of Bahia recently received a shipment of rails and 2,486 fish plates.

—Some enterprising Paulista propose to prolong the Paulista railroad to Pinhal. As the Paulista company have the preference for the line to Mato Grosso the government, before granting the privilege, has referred the question to itself. The company has obtained permission from the provincial assembly to negotiate with the projectors of the new line.

—The Parapetanga railroad is a small branch line of the Leopoldina line, 31 kilometers long. It starts from Volta Grande. The contract was signed two months ago and grading has commenced. The rolling stock of the Leopoldina road will be used.

—On the 12th inst. the new station of Concordia was opened between Desengano and Comodoro on the D. Pedro II railroad. It is designed to meet the wants of the coffee planters of that neighborhood, some of whom contributed largely to the expenses of construction.

—The first section of 48 kilometers of the União Mineira road is nearly ready for traffic, the rear and part of the rolling stock having arrived. Twenty kilometers of the second section of roadbed has been let out and is under construction and will be opened to traffic on May 1st. English rolling stock will be used, locomotives built on the American system of equalizing levers and bogies. On the freight and passenger cars was adopted the "Clemenson" system of radial trucks. Gauge one metre; sharpest curvature, 270 ft. radius; heaviest grade 3 7/8% has one Y switch going over the mountains; steel rails 36 lbs. per yard.

—About 26 kilometers of the Santo Antonio de Padua line are graded and 5 kilometers of rails are laid, the rest not being laid for want of ballast train. The company is in serious financial embarrassments. The contractor is unable to proceed with the formation of roadway having been stopped by orders from the company. No rolling stock has been furnished, as yet, the contractor for the same refusing to deliver it for want of sufficient security. Two locomotives and sixteen cars were ordered from Belgium. Gauge one metre; sharpest curvature 120 metres (400 ft.) radius; heaviest grade 2 1/2%; iron rails 40 lbs. per yard; total extent of line projected, 80 kilometers.

—The West Minas railroad is to be a metre gauge road connecting with the D. Pedro II, near Barbacena and going down the valley of the Rio das Mortes to São João del Rei about 75 kilometers. Surveys and levels being finished, the company advertised to receive, up to the 15th of this month, bids for formation of roadway and delivery of crassities. No contracts have yet been signed. Rails and rolling stock will be contracted for directly by the company. It receives as a subsidy from the province of Minas Gerais 9,000\$ per kilometre of line open to traffic, the rest of the capital to be made up by calls on the shares subscribed.

—Work was commenced on the Burm do Piraty and Rio Preto line on the 23d of August last but was stopped shortly after by financial difficulties. Arrangements are said to have been made for capital and 44 kilometers of grading were contracted for a few days ago by a general contractor. Sub-contractors have been made for 18 kilometers; gauge one metre.

—The Campos and Carangola line has now 80 kilometers in traffic and will open within three months its branch line to Santo Eduardo, 22 kilometers long, making a total of 102 kilometers. It has a gauge of one metre, its sharpest curvature 120 metres (400 ft.) and its heaviest grade 2 1/2 7/8%. The company intends to issue bonds for 2,000,000\$, 8 1/2 7/8% interest, in currency, to pay off a floating debt of 700,000\$ and to build 50 kilometers of its extension.

—The Leopoldina railroad company, having consolidated its small floating debt with the loan it lately raised by the issue of 3,676,000\$ which was taken by the Bank of Brazil at 94 1/2 and 8 1/2 7/8% interest (in currency), is getting along rapidly with its extension. 22 kilometers of track are already in traffic and eight more will be opened on the 1st of May. The length of the extension, 110 kilometers, will be finished by next November. They are laying steel rails, 40 lbs. per yard, the heaviest grade is 2 1/2 percentum and the sharpest curvature 350 ft. radius.

—On the Barão de Arraunha railroad, the grading of about 30 kilometers is finished and rails have been laid on an extent of 18 kilometers. It is expected that this extent will be ready for traffic on the 1st of June. The rails are steel, 40 lbs. per yard, American rolling stock is used, the sharpest curvature 500 ft. radius, and the gauge one metre.

—THERE ARE NOW about 90,000 miles of railroad in the United States. The annual consumption for ties or sleepers alone is 40,000,000, or thirty years, growth of 75,000 acres. To fence these roads would require at least 130,000 miles of fence, which would cost \$45,000,000 to build and take at least \$15,000,000 annually to keep in repair. There are 75,000 miles of wire, which requires in its putting up 300,000 trees, while the annual repair work takes 300,000 more. The Rio Grande Pacific lumber company annually in its manufacture 30,000 cubic feet of the forest pine. The bricks that are annually baked require 2,000,000 cords of wood, which would sweep the timber clear from 50,000 acres. Shoe-grogs are quite as important an article as matches or bricks, and to furnish the required annual supply consumes 100,000 cords of fine timber; while the manufacturers of iron and boat trees takes 500,000 cords of maple, beech and birch, and about the same amount is required for plane stocks and the handles of tools. The cost of the packing boxes made in the United States in 1874 amounted to \$12,000,000, while the timber manufactured into agricultural implements, wagons, &c., was more than \$10,000,000.

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COLONIZATION IN BRAZIL.

In his address before the Chamber of Deputies, on the 24th ult., Counselor Simão referred to the subject of introducing colonists into Brazil in the following words:

Immigration may be considered from two points of view; as the substitution of the existing labor, or as the introduction of a more advanced, instructed and industrious race that comes to people our campos and by contact improve the conditions of our people. The error of immigration among us is due to the confusion of these two ideas.

People have supposed that in treating of European immigration they were treating at the same time of bringing laborers to our plantations; seeing the approaching extinction of slavery in virtue of the law of September 20th, they considered that greater development should be given to European immigration, supposing that they would thus find a substitute for the labor at present employed on our plantations. This is an error.

The European who leaves his country, established habits and family ties, does not make these sacrifices without a great hope, that of becoming a proprietor, of finding a new fatherland for himself and his children. For this reason it is an error to think that the Italian or German colonist comes here to put himself at the disposition of our proprietors.

Possessed with this error we have made great sacrifices. The colonists have arrived without our being prepared to receive and accommodate them, without lands being measured, and roads, ranches and clearings made, so that there has been great confusion and, at the same time, great expense, with but slight advantage to the cause of colonization. But while recognizing the errors committed, we must not exaggerate. Have heard it said that immigration has been profligate. This is incorrect as I will prove. If the European colonist does not come to our agrarian establishments, if he does not come as the substitute of our servile element, he brings with him, notwithstanding, a certain value.

The noble deputies who have said so much here against European immigration cannot deny that those lots of lands which but a short time ago were virgin, useless, valueless, to-day have a value. I know colonies where small lots are worth to-day three, four and five cents of *reis*, which formerly were without value. If the noble deputies were to go to the province of Rio Grande do Sul and visit the colonies of São Leopoldo and São Lourenço, they would be astonished at the mode of life of the people, at the value of their lands and the infinity of small industries due to the industrial aptitude of the colonists. If they were to see the colony Blumenau in Santa Catharina, they would modify their judgment. Consequently we cannot say that immigration has been entirely useless; no, we have created an important population and given value to lands that before were worthless.

I hear it said that colonization should be left to private enterprise. I declare to the Chamber that I have never yet seen a success in private attempt at colonization. What we have always seen are the promoters of colonization schemes obliged always to attack from the government the rescission of their contracts. No one who has undertaken to colonize at his own expense, has succeeded well. It cannot be otherwise; European immigration cannot be dependent on private enterprise. A family of immigrants consists on an average of five persons, who are great consumers since they bring the habits of their country. What remuneration can a family like this obtain for itself, working on the lands of proprietors? What industry among us is sufficiently productive to enable the proprietor to remunerate properly a family in these conditions? This is an Utopia. The colonist must come to establish himself as an element which can develop itself in the future, but not an object of gain for anybody.

The evil we should complain of is that of our colonies not having been properly established. If the idea of the law of the budget of September 17, 1866, which provides for the purchase of lands along the railways for the establishment of colonies, had been carried out, instead of establishing them in the desert without the contact of civilization and the protection of the authorities, you can comprehend, Mr. President, the immense benefit the state would have derived from them, and the noble deputies who to-day condemn colonization would probably have been its most earnest supporters.

Colonization is very expensive solely on account of the means of communication which

must be established, and afterwards there must be a special administration; it requires the church, the priest, the church service, the school-master, the surveyor, the engineer, the director, in short a complicated administration.

Let us consider two colonists, the native and the European. The European placed on a plain in which he can use the plow is a hero. Here he can multiply his forces and has the advantage of being more useful than the native. But this same colonist, active and laborious, if placed in the virgin forest loses all his courage, is a nullity; he does not know how to cut down the *jagatibá* which is in front of him, while the native on the contrary, ax in hand, quickly clears land for his plantations. Consequently the labor of a locality for the founding of a colony exercises an important influence on its fate. If instead of placing colonies in the midst of the virgin forest we had extended them along the rich valley of the Parahyba with its magnificent lands and numerous cities, what prosperity they might have enjoyed and how different would be the judgment passed upon them.

After showing the progress that other coffee producing countries are making, His Excellency continued: What is Brazil to do in face of this competition in the product that is the principal source of our wealth? Shall we let the servile element disappear gradually without a substitute to supply the necessities of labor? For my part, I declare that I am not an advocate of Chinese immigration. I do not desire it as an element for our civilization, but I desire that the noble deputies will tell me where we are to seek means for supplying our labor after the extinction of slavery. I see no means other than the importation of Chinamen.

COLONIZING AFRICA.

At recent meeting of the Soc. of Arts in London, a paper on "Africa a Paramount Necessity for the Industries of England" was read by Mr. Bradshaw, of Manchester, in which he advocated the colonization and control of portions of that country in the interests of England. The subject possesses not a little interest for Brazilian statesmen, as an extensive colonization of Africa means new competition, as against Brazil, for the surplus population of Europe which, under the present system, must result unfavorably to the latter. In his discussion of the subject, Mr. Bradshaw said that in England all trades being at a dead level of depression it became necessary to consider the best means of assisting ourselves. Africa, he was of opinion, would be found to be a livingstone had predicted it would one day be, "a nearer India for England." It was a land singularly rich in animal, mineral and vegetable wealth; a land of great lakes and rivers forming natural highways for commerce. There was a population of from 200,000,000 to 400,000,000, and the materials to hand. He thought that £10,000,000 sterling should be raised by shares at a small sum and applied to the making of a railway 500 miles in length, which it was computed could be made in about 18 months; to the providing of steamers for the great lakes, three points of attack being recommended—the Niger, the Livingstone, and the lake regions; and the necessary wharves, warehouses, and trading stations. He particularly instanced the cotton trade as an industry which would reap incalculable benefit, far exceeding what had resulted from India, the latter now diminishing from native manufacture. The produce of the country in ivory and gold would be immense, and Mr. Stanley had stated his opinion that on a railway the return traffic would be very heavy. A modified East India Company would, he thought, bring the blessings of security and civilization to the natives.

LAVOURA PEQUENA.

Figures won't lie. The Brazilian statesman who believes that the *lavoura grande* and servile labor are the only means of developing the agricultural resources of this country, will do well to consider the following statement of what a small farmer can do. A correspondent of the *New York Tribune* says: Mr. C. H. Cables, in the Nantucket valley, Connecticut, has a farm of twenty-three acres, favorably situated near a thrifty manufacturing town. It has a warm southern exposure, well sheltered from cold winds. The soil, except some six or eight acres of bottom land which has been well drained, is what we would call a gravelly loam that does not hold manure or grass well. The farm is devoted mainly to the production of milk, which is sold in the

neighboring village for six cents per quart, but in connection with this quite a large quantity of early vegetables, such as lettuce, cabbage plants, etc., are turned off. There is also nearly an acre of strawberries raised, and about the same of cabbage. By selling his cows, not letting them run at all, and by a proper rotation of green crops, Mr. C. is enabled to milk seventeen cows, and this winter, besides these, he has also six head of young stock and two horses, and expects to have hay enough, all raised on the place. About half the farm is taken up with crops, leaving the remainder from which to cut hay. In the sales of milk, vegetables, plants, etc., Mr. Cables turns off from this place from \$2,500 to \$3,000 per year. He does all his work with one man, hired by the year, and one for the summer, including peddling the milk, and has leisure to read and observe. The gross income of these twenty-three acres per year is, often as high as \$125 per acre, and the net profit for some time has exceeded \$1,000 per year. All this on a small farm, well tilled, having good market.

THE RETURNS of French commerce for the year 1878 are as follows: The imports were, alimentary products, 1,543,368,000 francs; raw materials, 2,351,776,000 francs; manufactures, 447,133,000 francs; sundries, 1,457,572,000 francs; total, 4,400,000,000 francs as compared with 3,669,845,000 francs in 1877. The exports were: manufactures, 1,857,142,000 francs; raw materials, 1,320,805,000 francs; sundries, 181,800,000 francs; total for 1878, 3,359,807,000 francs as compared with 3,435,304,000 francs for 1877. It will be seen from the foregoing figures that the excess of merchandise exported over the quantity imported aggregated 420,000,000 francs.

THE OFFICIAL returns of the number of immigrants arriving in the United States during the years 1877 and 1878, as shown by the records in the Bureau of Statistics at Washington, are as follows:

Year ended Dec. 31, 1877, 129,593.
Year ended Dec. 31, 1878, 153,207.

In addition to this the number of passengers arriving in the United States during the years mentioned was 59,858 in 1877, and 56,047 in 1878.

RECENT official reports show that for the year 1877 the deposits in postal savings banks in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland amounted to £28,740,757, and in Trustee's savings banks, £24,738,086, the increase in the former since 1871 being £11,715,753, and in the latter, £5,419,023.

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